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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

February 11, 2002

Applicants : Kazuo HOKKIRIGAWA et al

For : CERAMIC MATERIAL, METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME,
AND FORMED PRODUCT THEREOF

Atty. Docket No.: OPS Case 569

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT CANCELING CLAIMS

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee in the above-identified application, kindly enter the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 3-9 as shown below. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is enclosed herewith.

3. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin is one kind of, or not less than two kinds of resins selected from the group consisting of phenol resin, diaryl phthalate resin, unsaturated polyester resin, epoxy resin, polyimide resin, and triazine resin.

4. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein the binder is an organic binder and/or an inorganic binder.

5. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein a mixing ratio of the defatted bran to the thermosetting resin is 50 to 90:50 to 10 by weight.

6. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein a mixing ratio of the carbonized powders to the ceramic powders is 5 to 95:95 to 5 by weight.

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7. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1, wherein a grain size of the carbonized powders is in a range of 10 to 500 μm .

8. (Amended) A formed sintered tile, wherein the ceramic material as set forth in claim 1 is formed in the shape of a square or rectangular sheet.

9. (Amended) A formed sintered flooring, wherein the ceramic material as set forth in claim 1 is formed in the shape of a square or rectangular sheet.

REMARKS

This amendment cancels claims to reduce the filing fee.
Please enter this amendment before calculating the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,


Terryence F. Chapman

TFC/smd

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL	Dale H. Thiel	Reg. No. 24 323
& TANIS, P.C.	David G. Boutell	Reg. No. 25 072
2026 Rambling Road	Ronald J. Tanis	Reg. No. 22 724
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1699	Terryence F. Chapman	Reg. No. 32 549
Phone: (616) 381-1156	Mark L. Maki	Reg. No. 36 589
Fax: (616) 381-5465	David S. Goldenberg	Reg. No. 31 257
	Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949
	Liane L. Churney	Reg. No. 40 694
	Brian R. Tumm	Reg. No. 36 328
	Tricia R. Cobb	Reg. No. 44 621

Encl: Marked-up Amended Claims 3-9

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MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS 3-9

3. (Amended) A ceramic material according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the thermosetting resin is one kind of, or not less than two kinds of resins selected from the group consisting of phenol resin, diaryl phthalate resin, unsaturated polyester resin, epoxy resin, polyimide resin, and triazine resin.

4. (Amended) A ceramic material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the binder is an organic binder and/or an inorganic binder.

5. (Amended) A ceramic material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein a mixing ratio of the defatted bran to the thermosetting resin is 50 to 90:50 to 10 by weight.

6. (Amended) A ceramic material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein a mixing ratio of the carbonized powders to the ceramic powders is 5 to 95:95 to 5 by weight.

7. (Amended) A ceramic material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein a grain size of the carbonized powders is in a range of 10 to 500 μm .

8. (Amended) A formed sintered tile, wherein the ceramic material as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 is formed in the shape of a square or rectangular sheet.

9. (Amended) A formed sintered flooring, wherein the ceramic material as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 is formed in the shape of a square or rectangular sheet.

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